

Best Practices 2

1. **Title of the Practice: Vermicompost Production and Distribution to local community people.**
2. **Objectives of the Practice:** To aware and train the local community people as well as the students to produce and use vermicompost as alternative source of inorganic fertilizer.
3. **The Context:** One of the major issues faced all over the globe is to the use of inorganic fertilizer which challenges the human health. To deal with such grave situation Chhamaria Anchalik College, Chhamaria is take a step to aware and trained up the local community people as well as the students of the college to produce and use vermi compost as an alternative source of inorganic fertilizer. This practice of use of vermi compost as one of the form of organic fertilizer is widely accepted in all over the globe. During different awareness programme organized by the college among the local community people on the issues of health, hygiene and issues related to protection of environment, local community people discussed about the health issues faced by them due to the use of inorganic fertilizers in their paddy and vegetable fields. They were in search of alternative sources of inorganic fertilizer which is easily accessible to them. Keeping this idea in mind Chhamaria Anchalik College has started this vermicompost plant to facilitate the local community people as well as the students.
4. **The Practice:**

Vermicompost is the product of the decomposition process using various species of worms, usually red wigglers, white worms, and other earthworms, to create a mixture of decomposing vegetable or food waste. Vermicompost contains water-soluble nutrients which may be extracted as an excellent, nutrient-rich organic fertilizer and soil conditioner. It is used in gardening and sustainable organic farming. For vermicomposting at home, a large variety of bins are commercially available, or a variety of adapted containers may be used. They may be made of old plastic containers, wood, Styrofoam, or metal containers. The design of a small bin usually depends on where an individual wishes to store the bin and how they wish to feed the worms. Some materials are less desirable than others in worm bin construction. Metal containers often conduct heat too readily, are prone to rusting, and may release heavy metals into the Vermicompost. Styrofoam containers may release chemicals into the organic material. Some cedars, yellow cedar, and redwood contain resinous oils that may harm worms, although western red cedar has excellent longevity in composting conditions. Hemlock is another inexpensive and fairly rot-resistant wood species that may be used to build worm bins.

Keeping these different form of vermicompost producing units in mind, Chhamaria Anchalik College is constructed a cement based small size vermicompost plant where foundation base is attached with the natural ground.
5. **Evidence of Success:** After installing the vermi compost plant on 2nd November, 2022 College has collected worm from Research and Extension centre of Assam Agriculture University, Kahikuchi, Guwahati campus. The faculties of the same centre have provided guidance to install this plant. Initially it was hard for the college to keep the moisture inside the plant.

Then we approach to the faculties of Research and Extension centre of Assam Agriculture University, Kahikuchi, Guwahati campus and they provide us necessary technical advice. Right now the plant is successfully producing the vermicompost where we provide training and aware to the local community people to the need and use of vermicompost in their paddy and vegetable fields. Currently college is able to distribute the Vermicompost to the local farmer who are living in the vicinity of the college as to use the produced Vermicompost of this plant in their vegetable fields on sample basis. After using this form of organic fertilizer by the local farmer they informed that their production is increased than earlier and they shown their keen interest to use this form of fertilizer in their paddy field also. An ex student Sabita Mandal of this college informed that she used this vermicompost in their family based kitchen garden, where she got more production than earlier and taste and quality of their vegetables produced now is far more better. She spread this message to her community members and informed the benefit of using Vermicompost.

6. Problem Encountered and Resources Required: Though the college is provide its necessary efforts to spread the message of the use and need of Vermicompost, still a wide a publicity is need of the hour. A group of farmers want to install Vermicompost plant in their locality but they are facing financial problem to install a cement based plant. College has advised them to form Self Help Group (SHG) and install the plant through financial held which is provided by the bank as small loan with substantial amount of subsidy.



Vermicompost distributed to the local farmers to use in their vegetable field on sample basis



Over view handholding knowledge and awareness is provided to the students by the faculty members of the college to produce and use Vermicompost



Over view handholding knowledge and awareness is provided to the students by the faculty members of the college to produce and use Vermicompost.